

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tape cartridge which can be inserted into a tape drive having an opening member, which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted, and carrying out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge comprising:

a reel on which a tape is wound;

a leader pin attached to a free end of the tape;

a case which is hollow, which accommodates the reel, and which has a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the case;

a pin holding portion, provided in the case in a vicinity of the tape access opening, for holding the leader pin such that the leader pin can be freely released;

an elastic member having a free end portion and a proximal portion, and anchoring the leader pin at the pin holding portion by pressing the leader pin by the free end portion; and

a supporting portion provided in the case and having one or more anchor ribs and a plurality of holding ribs for reinforcing the front wall portion, the supporting portion supporting the proximal portion of the elastic member between the one or more anchor ribs and the holding ribs.

2. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the case has a side wall portion which is substantially parallel to the cartridge insertion direction, and an inclined wall portion which is connected to the front wall portion and the side wall portion and is inclined with respect to the cartridge insertion direction, and

the tape access opening is provided at the inclined wall portion of the case.

3. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the holding ribs are formed integrally with the front wall portion.

4. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the holding ribs project from an inner surface of the front wall portion toward an interior of the case.

5. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the elastic member is a plate spring.

6. The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a shielding member which can move reciprocatingly along an arc-shaped path of movement between a closing position for closing the tape access opening and an opening position for opening the tape access opening.

7. The tape cartridge of claim 6, further comprising an urging element which always urges the shielding member toward the closing position.

8. The tape cartridge of claim 6, further comprising an operation portion provided at the shielding member, and due to the tape cartridge being inserted, the operation portion can move the shielding member toward the opening position while engaging with the opening member of the tape drive.

9. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the case is substantially rectangular in plan view.

10. The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein

the case is formed from an upper case and a lower case; and

a plurality of joining portions for joining the upper case and the lower case are provided.

11. A tape drive into which a tape cartridge can be inserted, and which carries out at least one of reading of data and writing of data, the tape cartridge having:

a reel on which a tape is wound;

a leader pin attached to a free end of the tape;

a case which is hollow, which accommodates the reel, and which has a front wall portion facing in a cartridge insertion direction;

a tape access opening provided at the case;

a pin holding portion, provided in the case in a vicinity of the tape access opening, for holding the leader pin such that the leader pin can be freely released;

an elastic member having a free end portion and a proximal portion, and anchoring the leader pin at the pin holding portion by pressing the leader pin by the free end portion; and

a supporting portion provided in the case and having one or more anchor ribs and a plurality of holding ribs for reinforcing the front wall portion, the supporting portion supporting the proximal portion of the elastic member between the one or more anchor ribs and the holding ribs,

wherein the tape drive has an opening member which can operatively engage with the tape cartridge at a time when the tape cartridge is inserted.

12. The tape drive of claim 11, wherein, at the time when the tape cartridge is inserted, the

opening member engages with a shielding member and can move the shielding member toward an opening position.

13. The tape drive of claim 11, wherein the opening member projects in a direction traversing the tape cartridge insertion direction.

14. The tape drive of claim 11, wherein the opening member enters into the case at the time when the tape cartridge is inserted.

15. The tape drive of claim 14, wherein the opening member enters in from a slit provided at the case.